Rural Enterprise Development Centres

722. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open 50 rural enterprise development centres under the Department of Science and Technology all over the country;

(b) if so, whether the scheme has been drawn up and the location identified in each State/Union Territory for setting up of the Centres; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) to (c) A proposal to promote Rural Enterprise Development has been submitted to the Working Group set up for formulating Ninth Five Year Plan for the department of Science & Technology. This includes implementation of the programme in rural areas for diffusion of technologies and development of rural enterprises. Specific locations have not been identified.

Harassment of foreigners

723. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN:
SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times of 18th February, 1996 to the effect that three foreigners were harassed and humiliated by the train staff/superintendent; and

(b) whether the matter was investigated; if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the officials found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYAS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) Inquiry against the concerned staff has been instituted. In the meanwhile, he has been withdrawn from train duty.

Private sector participation in multipurpose projects

724. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have invited private sector participation in water resources, particularly in multipurpose projects;

(b) if so, the projects identified in different States for the purpose; and

(c) the private sector companies which have taken keen interest in implementing irrigation projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However to examine the feasibility and scope of private sector participation in Irrigation and Multi-Purpose Projects, the Government constituted a high level Committee which submitted its report on 22nd December, 1995. The Committee concluded that while private sector participation is feasible in respect of all irrigation (surface and ground water) and multi-purpose projects, it would be desirable to introduce this on pilot basis for seleted projects.

Increase in equity stake by foreign companies

725. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to allow

foreign companies to have 50 per cent or more equity stake in the joint ventures with public sector enterprises; and

(b) if so, the details of the policy guidelines being adopted for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) and (b) The foreign companies are allowed Joint Venture with the public sector enterprises broadly in accordance with the policy guidelines spelt out in para 39 (b) and (c) of Industrial Policy statement of July 1991, which has already been laid on the Table of the House.

Payment of rent for use of land on Pune Station

726. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government was paying any rent or any other payment to any person from Pune, for the use of land on which Pune Station is built;

(b) if so, when this payment was stopped; and

(c) the reasons for stopping the payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI): (a) No, Sir. This land belongs to Railways.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

National Teacher Awards

727 SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for selection of Teachers/Principals for National Teacher Awards;

(b) the number of such Awards given to the Principals and Teachers separately during each of the last three years, particularly to the Teachers/Principals working in Delhi;

(c) whether the list for this award for the year 1995 has been finalised;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to give this award to working teachers instead of the Principals of Public Schools/Government aided/Government Schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION) (DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI): (a) to (c) Under the Scheme of National Award to Teachers, Class-room teachers with at least 15 years regular teaching experience and Headmasters/Principals with 20 years regular teaching experience and who are actually working as Teachers/Headmasters/Principals in recognised primary/middle/high/higher secondary etc. schools are eligible to be considered for awards.

Each State has been allocated to fixed quota of Awards. While there is a separate quota of Awards, in each State, for the Primary School Teachers as well as for the Secondary School Teachers, no separate allocation has been made for Principals vis-a-vis Teachers working in Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools. The total number of Awards allocated to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi is four, two in each category.

The number of Awards given to Principals/Teachers from the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi during the last three years in each category is as under:—

	1992		1993		1994	
	Prim.	Sec.	Prim.	Sec.	Prim.	Sec.
Teachers	—	1	—	—	1	—
Headmasters/ Principals	2	1	2	2	1	2